



Tom Chamberlain, *President*
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Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C., 20554

May 17th, 2011

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

It is the position of the Oregon Chapter of AFL-CIO that the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile should go forward without delay. Members of our organization and other labor organizations across the country are in agreement that this transaction will benefit workers while also benefiting consumers and businesses.

Among wireless communications firms, AT&T has the largest full-time unionized workforce. The company is committed to providing well-paying jobs for American workers and, when the merger is completed, we believe there will be an increase in the demand for new workers. AT&T has publicly committed to spend over \$8 billion, additional, on infrastructure improvements over the next seven years. That will not only keep the current labor force active, it will also necessitate additional hiring.

In Oregon, we see the merger as an opportunity to expand employment and strengthen the economy. At a time when many states, cities and towns are struggling with budget shortfalls, new jobs resulting from new investment by companies like AT&T will ease the pain and help the country continue moving forward. The merger represents a beneficial step toward improving the landscape in general and the unionized workforce in particular.

The telecommunications industry is among the most vibrant we have today. It offers great promise for improving the way we live our lives. It also provides a foundation for start-up businesses that support and enhance new technology. The AFL-CIO supports the growth of existing and new industries and we are pleased by the opportunities that the merger of these two telecommunications companies will provide.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. We hope you will act swiftly to approve this transaction.

Sincerely,

Tom Chamberlain
President, Oregon AFL-CIO

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker